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NPIC/IEG/TFD
30 NOVEMBER 1984**BMP M-1981 DEPLOYMENT
WESTERN MILITARY DISTRICT, USSR (SWN)**

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1. SIGNIFICANCE: GROUPS OF 14 BMP-1981 HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED IN BMP INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE-EQUIPPED MOTORIZED RIFLE (MR) BATTALIONS IN ONE CARPATHIAN AND THREE BELORUSSIAN MILITARY DISTRICT (MD) DIVISIONS SINCE _____ CONCURRENT EXPANSION OF VEHICLE STORAGE BUILDINGS HAS OCCURRED IN SOME OF THE SAME VEHICLE PARKS. THE BMP M-1981 IS THE LATEST VARIANT OF THE BMP INFANTRY FIGHTING VEHICLE AND MOUNTS A 30MM CANNON VICE A 73MM GUN. (SWN) 25X1

2. REMARKS: ON _____ THREE GROUPS OF BMP WERE IN REGIMENTS SUBORDINATE TO THE 46TH GTD, 28TH ARMY AT SLONIM HQ TK DIV/AB AL 2, BELORUSSIAN MD (GRAPHIC 1). THE MRR AND A TANK REGIMENT EACH HAD A GROUP OF 14 BMP M-1981. THE FIRST TANK REGIMENT'S MR BATTALION CONTAINED 39 BMP-1, NONE OF WHICH APPEARED TO BE DISPLACED BY THE ADDITION OF THE PROBABLE BMP M-1981. NEW VEHICLE STORAGE BUILDINGS WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN TWO OF THE REGIMENTAL VEHICLE PARKS. _____ 25X1

THE MR BATTALION FOR A TANK REGIMENT OF THE 29TH GTD, 5TH GUARDS TANK ARMY, HOUSED AT URECHYE RES STOR DPO/AR BKS AL 1 IN THE BELORUSSIAN MD (GRAPHIC 2), HAD 14 NEWLY IDENTIFIED BMP M-1981 ON _____ THESE VEHICLES, STILL IN THEIR SHIPPING FRAMEWORK, BUT WITH CANVAS PARTIALLY PULLED BACK, WERE PARKED IN THE OPEN WITH THE BATTALION'S NORMAL EQUIPMENT COMPLEMENT OF 35 BMP-1 AND THREE BTR-70. THERE WAS NO CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL VEHICLE STORAGE BUILDINGS. _____ 25X1

A SIMILAR DEPLOYMENT WAS OBSERVED ON _____ AT SLAVUTA HQ MRD/AL 1 TA 1 _____, WHICH HOUSES THE 97TH GUARDS MOTORIZED RIFLE DIVISION (GMRD), 13TH ARMY, CARPATHIAN MD. A GROUP OF 14 BMP M-1981 WAS PARKED NEXT TO EACH OF THE THREE MR BATTALION VEHICLE STORAGE BUILDINGS IN THE BMP-EQUIPPED MOTORIZED RIFLE REGIMENT (MRR). THE PREVIOUS STRUCTURE OF THE THREE BMP MR BATTALIONS HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED. VEHICLE STORAGE CAPACITY, HOWEVER, SUGGESTS THAT EACH BATTALION HAD 36 BMP. _____ 25X1

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THREE GROUPS OF BMP WERE STILL PARKED IN THE OPEN ON [REDACTED] 25X1
 AT SLAVUTA, BUT IT APPEARED THAT TWO OF THE ORIGINAL THREE
 GROUPS OF BMP M-1981 HAD MOVED INTO THE VEHICLE STORAGE
 BUILDINGS. THEY WERE REPLACED IN THE OPEN WITH BMP-1, PROBABLY
 FROM THE VEHICLE STORAGE SHEDS. PARKING PATTERNS OF THE BMP-1
 SUGGEST THAT THEY WILL REMAIN WITH THE UNIT. NO VEHICLE STORAGE
 CONSTRUCTION WAS UNDERWAY TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASE IN BMP.
 (SWN)

ON [REDACTED] A GROUP OF 14 BMP M-1981 WAS OBSERVED IN EACH 25X1
 OF TWO TANK REGIMENT VEHICLE PARKS AT MARINA GORKA HQ GDS TK
 DIV/AB AL 1 [REDACTED], 8TH GUARDS TANK DIVISION (GTD), 5TH 25X1
 GUARDS TANK ARMY, BELORUSSIAN MD. AT LEAST TWO, AND PROBABLY
 ALL THREE, OF THE TANK REGIMENTS HOUSED AT THIS GARRISON
 PREVIOUSLY HAD MR BATTALIONS EQUIPPED WITH 43 BMP-1. THERE WAS
 NO INDICATION THAT BMP-1 WERE BEING REMOVED FROM STORAGE FOR
 REPLACEMENT BY THE BMP M-1981. SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE REVEALED
 THAT ONE GROUP OF BMP M-1981 HAD PROBABLY MOVED INTO A RECENTLY
 COMPLETED VEHICLE STORAGE BUILDING IN ONE TANK REGIMENT AREA.
 THERE WAS NO EXPANSION OF VEHICLE STORAGE CAPACITY IN THE OTHER
 TANK REGIMENT THAT RECEIVED THE BMP M-1981. AT LEAST NINE BMP
 M-1981 HAVE REMAINED PARKED IN THE OPEN IN THIS TANK REGIMENT
 AREA. [REDACTED] 25X1

ANALYST'S COMMENTS -- IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE NEWER BMP ARE
 INTENDED TO REPLACE SOME OF THE BMP-1. A SIMILAR REPLACEMENT
 OCCURRED IN AT LEAST THREE GROUPS OF SOVIET FORCES, GERMANY
 DIVISIONS IN THE PAST YEAR. HOWEVER, EXPANSION OF THE MR
 BATTALION CANNOT BE RULED OUT. IN NONE OF THE INSTANCES HAS A
 GROUP OF BMP-1 BEEN OBSERVED GROUPED CLOSELY TOGETHER IN OPEN
 STORAGE (INDICATING PREPARATIONS FOR REMOVAL FOR THE UNIT). THE
 LACK OF IMAGERY EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT VEHICLE REPLACEMENT, IN
 CONJUNCTION WITH THE SIMULTANEOUS INCREASE OF VEHICLE STORAGE
 CAPACITY IN SOME OF THE REGIMENTS, SUGGESTS THAT BMP-EQUIPPED
 BATTALIONS IN THESE TWO MILITARY DISTRICTS MAY BE IN THE PROCESS
 OF EXPANDING TO AT LEAST 50 BMP PER BATTALION. (SWN)

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AN EXPANSION TO AT LEAST 50 BMP PER BATTALION WOULD MATCH THE CURRENT STRUCTURE OF BTR-60/70 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER (APC) EQUIPPED BATTALIONS. A FORCE-WIDE EXPANSION OF BTR-EQUIPPED MR BATTALIONS STARTED IN 1980. THE EXPANSION CONSISTED OF ADDING 14 BTR-60/70 TO THE THEN EXISTING STRUCTURE OF 36 APC PER BATTALION. THE ADDITIONAL APC WERE PROBABLY INTENDED TO CARRY THE BATTALION SPECIAL WEAPON SQUADS (SA-7, RECOILLESS GUN, AGS-17, AND ANTI-TANK). THE CURRENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE BMP M-1981 TO MR BATTALIONS IN GROUPS OF 14 MAY INDICATE A SIMILAR STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE. (SWN)

3. COORDINATES 52-56-03N 027-54-40E (S) 25X1
COORDINATES 53-04-46N 025-19-42E (S)

4. ANALYST: 25X1

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